

PUBLIC ACCESS ROOM

A division of the Legislative Reference Bureau

NEWSLETTER

Hawaii State Capitol ♦ 415 South Beretania Street ♦ Room 401 ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 587-0478 ♦ Fax: (808) 587-0793 ♦ URL: www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par

Legislative Timetable

January

18th Opening Day.
20th Non-Administrative Bill Package Cutoff.
23rd State-of-the-State Address & Administrative Bill Package Cutoff.
25th Last day for introduction of bills.
31st Grants/Subsidies Cutoff.

February

17th First Lateral.
20th Holiday - Presidents' Day.
23rd - March 1st Mandatory 5-Day Recess.

March

3rd First Decking - last day to file non-budget bills.
9th First Crossover.
15th Last day to introduce substantive resolutions.
21st Budget Decking.
23rd Budget Crossover.
24th Second Lateral.
27th Holiday - Kuhio Day.

April

7th Second Decking - last day to file bills in non-originating body.
13th Second Crossover - last day to disagree/First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions.
14th Holiday - Good Friday
21st Deadline for final form of constitutional amendments.
24th Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions.
27th Last day to file non-fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading.
28th Last day to file fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading.

May

4th Adjournment Sine Die.

June

26th Last day for Governor to veto bills

July

11th Last day for Governor to sign bills

CONTACT US:

Public Access Room

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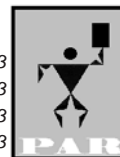
Neighbor Islands (Toll Free):

Hawai'i:.....974-4000, then ext. 70478 70793

Maui:.....984-2400, then ext. 70478 70793

Kaua'i:.....274-3141, then ext. 70478 70793

Moloka'i/Lana'i: 800-468-4644, then ext. 70478 70793



Get Connected!

Ever wish you could...

- email your colleagues while visiting the Capitol?
- quickly consult a website to double-check your facts while waiting to testify in a House or Senate conference room?
- read (or write!) a blog or work on the Internet while enjoying one of the koa benches in the central corridor hallways?



Now you'll be able to... the Hawaii State Capitol has gone wireless! The service is **free** to users, **no registration** is required, and to connect, **all you need is the equipment** – a laptop, notebook computer or PDA – equipped with a wireless network card (802.11b/g compliant) and an Internet browser.

You'll be able to work online while you're in:

- the Public Access Room
- the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floor central corridors or along the railings
- House and Senate committee rooms
- the Auditorium and
- Chamber-level hallways fronting the Auditorium, Room 016 and the Print Shops.



When you're in range, most devices will detect and access the new network automatically. If not, you can select the network manually (it'll be shown as "HISTATELEG," under the list of available wireless networks).

One caveat – while the Capitol's new wireless network is free and easy, it is not secure. Users are encouraged to activate their antivirus software prior to connecting, and to consider using an encrypted page if sending or receiving confidential data.

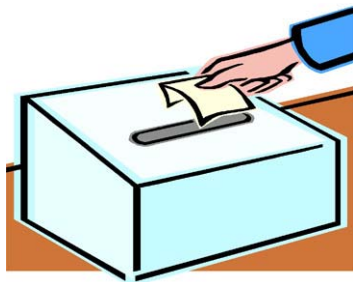
We hope the new wireless network makes it easier and more convenient for many of you to participate in Hawaii's legislative process. Come on by the Public Access Room (room 401), and we'll be happy to provide you with additional information or help you with questions.

This just in from our quotes department:

"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any." *Alice Walker*

It's an Election Year, are you a registered voter?

The 2006 regular session is nearing its end and hopefully the past four months of testifying, meeting with legislators and persistent lobbying have paid off. For all who survived session – be it as a citizen lobbyist or a legislative staffer – you deserve a firm pat on the back. Session has always been a true test of patience and perseverance. If things did not work out as you would've liked this session, remember that 1) next year will be the start of a whole new legislature with all new bills being introduced, and 2) **it is an election year.**



Elections are a time for you, as a registered voter, to voice your opinion as to whether or not you feel your elected officials represented your views and values. And if you are not a registered voter, why aren't you? Publicly elected officials have an impact on your everyday life and it is your right to decide who can make those decisions for you.

Registering to vote is a lot easier than many may think. Although there are a few requirements, it is not like you have to take an exam. The following qualifications and disqualifications are stated in the Hawaii State Constitution as to who can register to vote:

Qualification

Article II, Section 1 states that "[e]very citizen of the United States who shall have attained the age of eighteen years, have been a resident of this State not less than one year next preceding the election and be a voter registered as provided by law, shall be qualified to vote in any state or local election."

Disqualification

Article II, Section 2 states that "[n]o person who is non compos mentis [not of sound mind, insane] shall be qualified to vote. No person convicted of a felony shall be qualified to vote except upon the person's final discharge or earlier as provided by law."

Voter Registration Applications can be obtained at numerous places: via the Office of Elections website (www.hawaii.gov/elections/), Hawaiian Telcom Phonebook, Satellite City Halls, libraries and here at the Public Access Room to name a few. To find a location near you, contact the Office of Elections at 453-VOTE (8683) on Oahu or toll-free from the neighbor islands at 1-800-442-VOTE (8683).



As far as the legislature is concerned, all 51 House of Representatives seats are up for election this year, along with 13 of the 25 seats in the Senate. The 13 Senate seats up for election are Districts 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 24, and 25.

From now until the General Election, candidates will be touting their accomplishments and the ideas they have to better the lives of their constituents, so be sure to do your research; see who speaks for you and your community's best interest; and cast your vote on Election Day.

Important 2006 Election Dates

July 25 – First day to request absentee mail ballots for Primary and/or General Election from City/County Clerk (OHA candidates are on General Election ballot only)

August 24 – Last day to register to vote for the Primary Election with City/County Clerk

September 11 – Open Primary Election walk-in absentee polling places

September 16 – Application for Primary Election Absentee Voter Ballot must be received by the City/County Clerk where you reside no later than September 16, 2006, 4:30 P.M.

September 21 – Last day to vote at Primary Election walk-in absentee polling places

September 23 – Primary Election

October 9 – Last day to register to vote for the General Election with City/County Clerk

October 24 – Open General Election walk-in absentee polling places

October 31 – Application for General Election Absentee Voter Ballot must be received by the City/County Clerk where you reside no later than October 31, 2006, 4:30 P.M.

November 4 – Last day to vote at General Election walk in absentee polling places

November 7 – General Election



Reading Budget Bills and Worksheets

For those unprepared, looking at the "budget bills" (this year, HB1900 and SB2060) and "budget worksheets" may be a bit daunting. Here are two tables to help you decipher the codes (i.e. methods-of-funding codes) and acronyms (i.e. expanding agency codes)... certainly a first step to making the reading of bills and worksheets less cumbersome.

First, let's make clear that the "budget bills" noted above specifically address the Executive agencies' operations and capital improvement program moneys, and designate appropriations and adjustments for the current Fiscal Biennium (in this case, Fiscal Years 2005-2006 and 2006-2007), also known as the "supplemental budget bill." Adjustments made in the supplemental budget bill are generally for FY 2006-2007.

"Method-of-Funding" Codes

The moneys that are designated for each line item do **not** all come from a single source. There are numerous "funds" or sources from which the money is appropriated. Rather than the cumbersome process of spelling these out, a simple code is used. If you have the Method-of-Funding Code Table (shown below), it's a simple matter to determine the funding source for a specific item.

"Method-of-Funding" Codes in Budget Bills (*alphabetical, by Code*)

A – General Fund	L – Federal Aid Secondary Funds
B – Special Fund	M – Federal Aid Urban Funds
C – General Obligation Bond Fund	N – Other Federal Funds
D – General Obligation Bond Fund with Debt Service Cost to be Paid from Special Funds	R – Private Contributions
E – Revenue Bond Funds	S – County Funds
J – Federal Aid Interstate Funds	T – Trust Funds
K – Federal Aid Primary Funds	U – Interdepartmental Transfers
	W – Revolving Funds
	X – Other Funds



The example below is taken from the end of the HB1900 SD1 Worksheet. If we look at the items designated "S," which identifies County Funds, we can see that County Funds will provide \$200,000 in the First Fiscal Year and \$664,458 in the Second Fiscal Year of the Biennial Budget .

EXPLANATION	FIRST FY			SECOND FY		
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	34,348.03	4,422,924,884	A	34,932.23	4,769,387,180	A
	6,787.70	1,686,276,820	B	6,825.70	1,727,515,447	B
	2,152.97	1,501,921,482	N	2,169.47	1,616,777,228	N
	0.00	122,500	R	0.00	150,969	R
	0.00	200,000	S	0.00	664,458	S
	129.94	48,386,195	T	129.94	56,781,480	T
	163.85	873,901,021	U	173.85	982,393,131	U
	544.15	358,518,624	W	562.15	411,888,190	W
	75.00	8,821,841	X	75.00	9,366,767	X
GRAND TOTAL BUDGET	44,201.64	8,901,073,367		44,868.34	9,574,924,850	

(continued on the next page)

- **Expending Agency Codes**

These codes, also called the "Budgetary Program Identification Letter Designations," indicate which department or agency will be spending the allotted funds. The codes can be found under "Program ID" in the budget worksheet, and it is important to note that the codes are not necessarily the same as the frequently used acronyms for State departments and agencies. (*For example, the Department of Education, usually referred to as the "DOE," is referred to in the budget bills as "EDN."*)

Expending Agency Codes

(alphabetical, by code)

AGR: Department of Agriculture	HMS: Department Human Services
AGS: Department of Accounting and General Services	HRD: Department of Human Resources Development
ATG: Department of the Attorney General	HTH: Department of Health
BED: Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism	LBR: Department Labor and Industrial Relations
BUF: Department of Budget and Finance	LNR: Department of Land and Natural Resources
CCA: Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs	LTG: Office of the Lieutenant Governor
DEF: Department of Defense	PSD: Department of Public Safety
EDN: Department of Education	TAX: Department of Taxation
GOV: Office of the Governor	TRN: Department of Transportation
HHL: Department of Hawaiian Home Lands	UOH: University of Hawaii

In the example below, taken from HB1900 HD1 SD1, we can see that the *Department of Transportation* (TRN) will be appropriated \$4,536,206 for the first fiscal year and \$4,161,302 for the second fiscal year from the *Special Fund* for operating cost relating to the Molokai Highways program.

PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS

ITEM NO.	PROG. ID	PROGRAM	EXPENDING AGENCY	APPROPRIATIONS			
				FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006	M O F	FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007	M O F
30.	TRN541	MOLOKAI HIGHWAYS				12.00*	12.00*
	OPERATING		TRN	4,536,206B		4,161,302B	
	INVESTMENT CAPITAL		TRN	565,000E		235,000E	
			TRN	1,495,000N		940,000N	

You may also notice 12.00 in both the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 and the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 columns. These numbers are referred to as the "position column" and represent the equivalent amount of permanent full-time positions within the department that receives these funds.

For more information relating to the budget, feel free to contact us here at the Public Access Room (contact information located on the front page), the House Finance staff at 586-6200 or the Senate Ways & Means staff at 586-6460.

Join the PAR to celebrate...Adjournment sine die!



**Come commemorate, commiserate,
talk story, and bid aloha to the
2006 Regular Session!**

Potluck Party

4:00 pm on Thursday, May 4th

Public Access Room

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 401

*No RSVP required – Just show up!
Heavy Pupus.
Call 587-0478 with any questions.*